

Alawoise Strickland

Alawoise Faye Strickland is the oldest daughter of Thurley Jerome Strickland and Ida Lee Stallings. She was born Jul 29, 1935 in Franklin County, NC. She married Harold Moffitt Flanagan on Apr 18, 1958, Jr. in Franklin County, NC. She and Harold had 3 sons and 1 daughter. Alawoise is an Indian name meaning "can't spell well". She is affectionately known alternatively as "Waz" to family and friends.

Alawoise grew up in the farming community of New Hope, NC. She went through school in Franklin County, graduating from high school in 1952. She attended nursing school at Rex Hospital in Raleigh, NC graduating in 1956. She worked as an RN at Rex Hospital for a year then at Dupont. She also worked for the school system as a medical social director, for a doctor, and at a nursing home. In 1973, she became the director of nursing at a nursing home in Farmville and a year later became the nursing home administrator, a position she held until 1999.

She and Harold lived on the family farm until 1970 then moved to Contentnea Street in Farmville where they lived for a few years. They rebuilt a house on Grimmersburg St. which was only a couple of miles from the farm. When her mother died in 1992, she used the value of her family farm to purchase the outstanding part of the Flanagan family farm so that she and Harold could keep it intact.

After leaving the nursing home in Farmville Alawoise managed other nursing homes. She was an effective manager in a field with many difficulties to deal with. There is no doubt the patients benefited from her efforts.

Alawoise has been active in the Farmville First Christian Church – especially in the CWF and many other positions. Her four children, Jerry, Gayle, Scott and Mark were active in the church as well. While raising her children she also worked for Pitt County schools. Bertha Gorham and Clara Johnson helped keep the kids.

Alawoise's passions are her family, her church, and her flower garden. She and Harold were interested in scouting. She was a Cub Scout leader while Harold worked with the older scouts. To have worked in a demanding field and be a farm wife at the same time took a lot of effort. Raising four children along with the community involvement made for a busy life. She has always had an interest in the schools and has been a substitute teacher in the Pitt County since retirement.